3-month summary

• Near average rainfall looks most likely, however the chances of a wetter-than-average period are higher than a drier-than-average one.
• Wet conditions are slightly more likely at the start of the period than later on.
• The chance of a warm period is a little higher than normal, therefore there is a slight increase in the chance of heatwaves, especially later in the period.
• The chances of a windy or calm period are similar to the long-term average.

3-month likelihood of impact

Temperature

5% chance the season will be COOL	60% chance the season will be NEAR AVERAGE	35% chance the season will be HOT
0.3× the normal chance	1.0× the normal chance	1.8× the normal chance

Precipitation

20% chance the season will be DRY	50% chance the season will be NEAR AVERAGE	30% chance the season will be WET
1.0× the normal chance	0.8× the normal chance	1.5× the normal chance

Wind speed

20% chance the season will be CALM	60% chance the season will be NEAR AVERAGE	20% chance the season will be WINDY
1.0× the normal chance	1.0× the normal chance	1.0× the normal chance

1-month summary

- The chance of a wet month is near-normal overall, but a little higher than usual in the south.
- The chance of a warm month is similar to normal.
- May can still bring cold nights anywhere given the right conditions, though this risk decreases with time.
- The chances of a windy month are near average.

1-month likelihood of impact

Temperature

15% chance the month will be COOL	60% chance the month will be NEAR AVERAGE	25% chance the month will be WARM
0.8× the normal chance	1.0× the normal chance	1.3× the normal chance

Precipitation

20% chance the month will be DRY	55% chance the month will be NEAR AVERAGE	25% chance the month will be WET
1.0× the normal chance	0.9× the normal chance	1.3× the normal chance

Wind speed

25% chance the month will be CALM	55% chance the month will be NEAR AVERAGE	20% chance the month will be WINDY
1.3× the normal chance	0.9× the normal chance	1.0× the normal chance

Understanding the Outlook

The Outlook uses 3 categories for possible UK temperature, precipitation and wind speed in the next 1 and 3 months:

COOL, NEAR AVERAGE and WARM for 1-month temperature
COOL, NEAR AVERAGE and HOT for 3-month temperature
WET, NEAR AVERAGE and DRY for precipitation
CALM, NEAR AVERAGE and WINDY for wind speed

These are linked to observed UK conditions in past years. The NEAR AVERAGE category represents typical conditions for the period and has a normal likelihood of 60%. The higher and lower categories represent more unusual conditions that are more likely to produce impacts. Each has a normal likelihood of 20%.

The Outlook shows how the chances of occurrence of the categories differ from normal, based on knowledge of expected global meteorological patterns. It does not identify which category will actually occur.

Same 3-month period over the last 10 years

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
HOT	COOL	NEAR AVERAGE	HOT	HOT	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	HOT	HOT
NEAR AVERAGE	WET	NEAR AVERAGE	WET	DRY	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE
CALM	WINDY	NEAR AVERAGE	WINDY	CALM	CALM	NEAR AVERAGE	CALM	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE

Same 1-month period over the last 10 years

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
NEAR AVERAGE	COOL	NEAR AVERAGE	WARM	WARM	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	COOL	WARM	WARM
WET	WET	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	DRY	NEAR AVERAGE	DRY	WET	NEAR AVERAGE	DRY
NEAR AVERAGE	WINDY	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	CALM	CALM	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	CALM

Outlook in context

Drivers of UK weather for May to July:

Global weather patterns can affect UK weather during the coming season and their influence acts to shift the chances of the categories in the Outlook. However, the influence of many of these drivers on the UK climate tends to be small at this time of year.
Drivers relevant to the current Outlook include:
• The warming of UK climate consistent with wider global warming trends.
• ENSO is expected to transition from El Nino towards neutral or La Nina in this outlook period with continued cooling of Tropical East Pacific waters.
• Stratospheric winds - the normal spring transition from a westerly to an easterly direction is delayed this year, slightly favouring more settled conditions in the upcoming 3 months.

Long-range weather predictions:
The Met Office and other prediction centres around the world routinely produce long-range forecasts of conditions in the months ahead. Predictability is generally lower in the summer months, however, there are indications that during May, there is an increased chance compared to normal of lower pressure over, or close to the south of the UK with higher pressure to the north of the UK. Most forecast models favour this negative NAO pattern through May, before reverting near to neutral by July.
This results in greater likelihood of weather systems tracking across the country further south than usual at first. This would result in southern areas are being wetter-than-average with northern areas drier-than-average. As the season progresses, the signals become smaller, but with greater chances of a more usual track for weather systems, with southern areas perhaps seeing drier conditions compared to early in the period.
Impacts
Despite some recent (short-lived) relatively dry conditions in southern areas, any resumption of wet conditions here may bring impacts greater than would usually be expected. It’s worth remembering however, that these figures are relative to “average” and May is usually one of the drier months of the year, and skill in precipitation forecasting in the summer is low.
At this time of year, rainfall is increasingly likely to be convective in nature with a greater risk of localised, heavy downpours and thunderstorms. This could lead to widely varying totals on a spatial level.

Outlook compared to normal likelihood

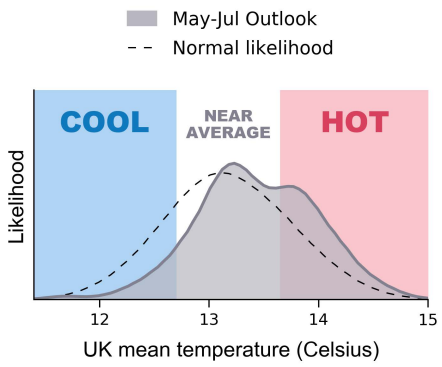
The curves below show the likelihood of the 1- and 3-month average temperature, precipitation and wind speed taking specific values. In each case:

- The dashed curve shows the normal likelihood based on how often each value has been recorded in past years
- The solid curve shows the current likelihood based on the Outlook for this year

The differences in these curves show how the probabilities for the coming periods differ compared to past years. Where the solid curve (corresponding to this year's Outlook) lies above the dashed curve (normal likelihood), the temperature, precipitation or wind speed at that point has a greater-than-normal likelihood of occurring. Likewise, wherever it is below the dashed curve, the likelihood of those values is less than normal.

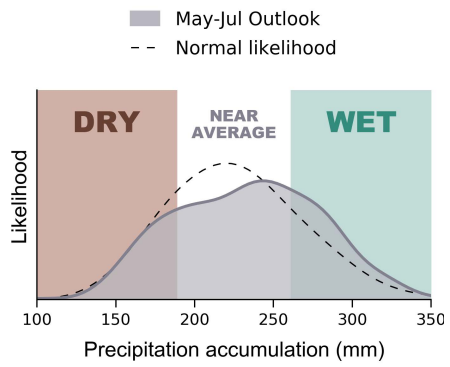
A shift of the solid curve to the left of the dashed curve indicates an increase in the chances of below-average temperature, rainfall or winds. A shift to the right, meanwhile, indicates increased chances of above-average values.

3-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



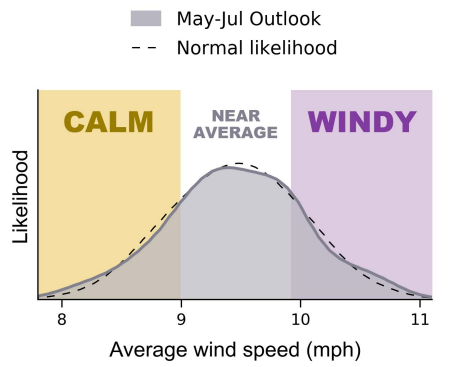
Likelihood leans slightly towards hot

3-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



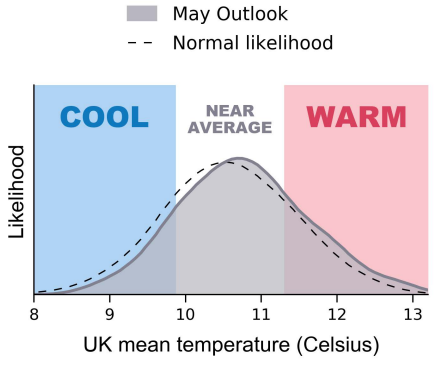
Likelihood leans slightly towards wet

3-month wind speed Outlook compared to normal



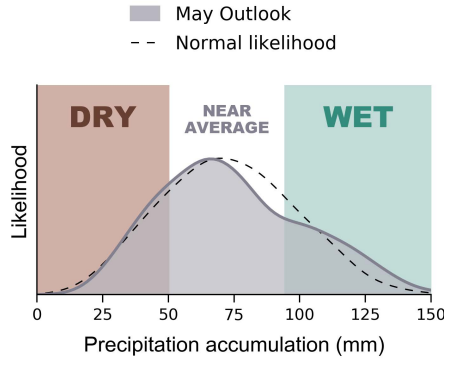
Likelihoods of calm and windy are similar

1-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



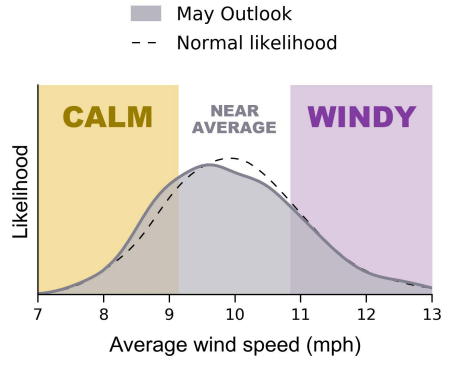
Likelihood leans slightly away from cool

1-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



Likelihoods of dry and wet are similar

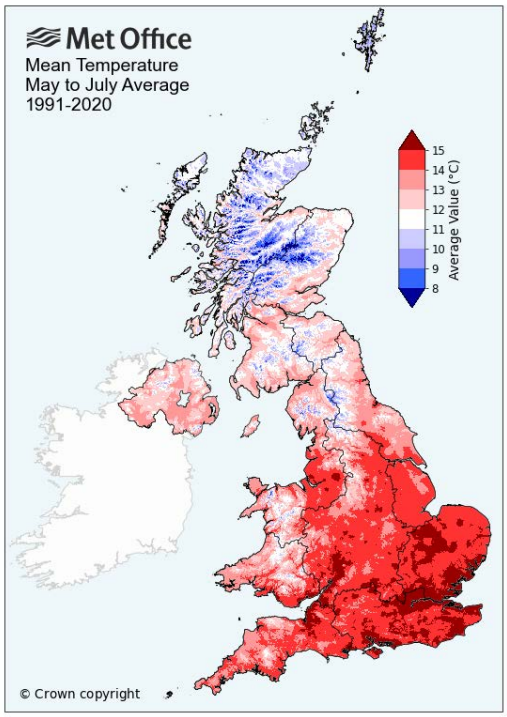
1-month wind speed Outlook compared to normal



Likelihoods of calm and windy are similar

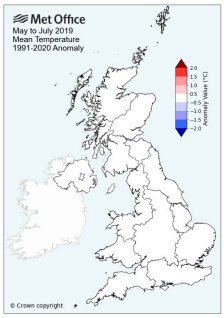
Long-term average temperatures (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average temperatures across the UK applicable to the 3-month Outlook period.

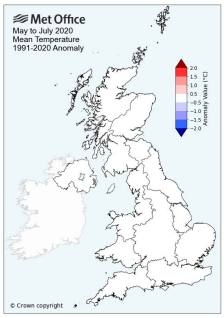


Average temperatures for May - July based on observations of past years.

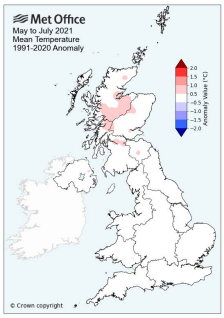
Last 5 years temperatures, difference from average (3-month)



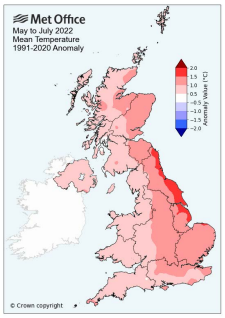
May - Jul 2019



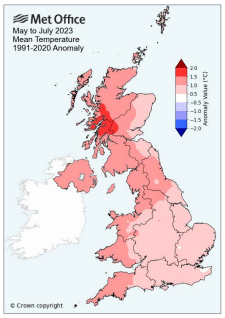
May - Jul 2020



May - Jul 2021



May - Jul 2022



May - Jul 2023

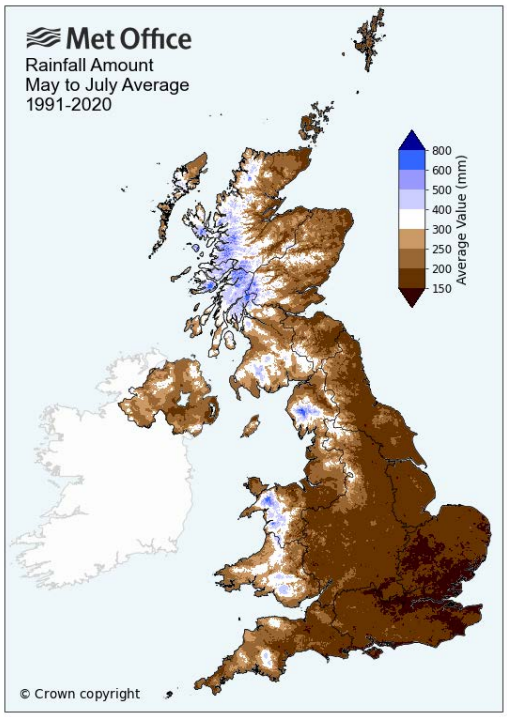
Anomaly (°C)

< -2.0	-2.0 to -1.5	-1.5 to -1.0	-1.0 to-0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 1.0	1.0 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.0	> 2.0

These maps show how May - July temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown above in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate hotter-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

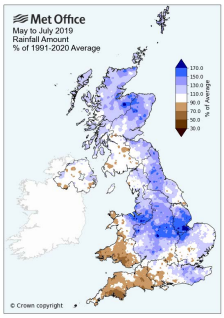
Long-term average precipitation (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average precipitation across the UK applicable to the 3-month Outlook period.

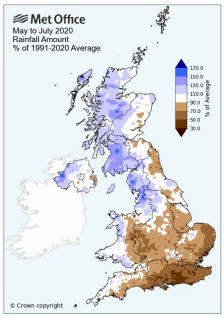


Average precipitation for May - July based on observations of past years.

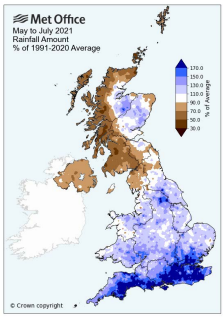
Last 5 years precipitation, difference from average (3-month)



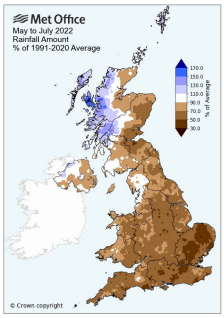
May - Jul 2019



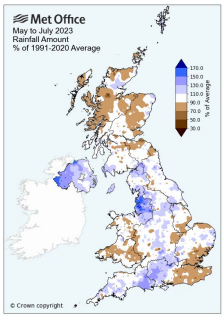
May - Jul 2020



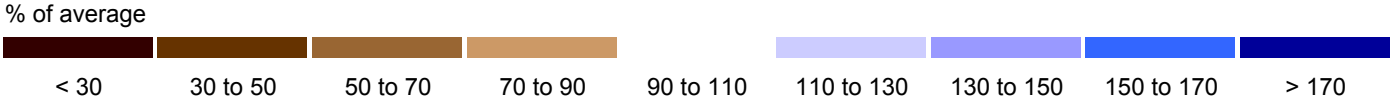
May - Jul 2021



May - Jul 2022



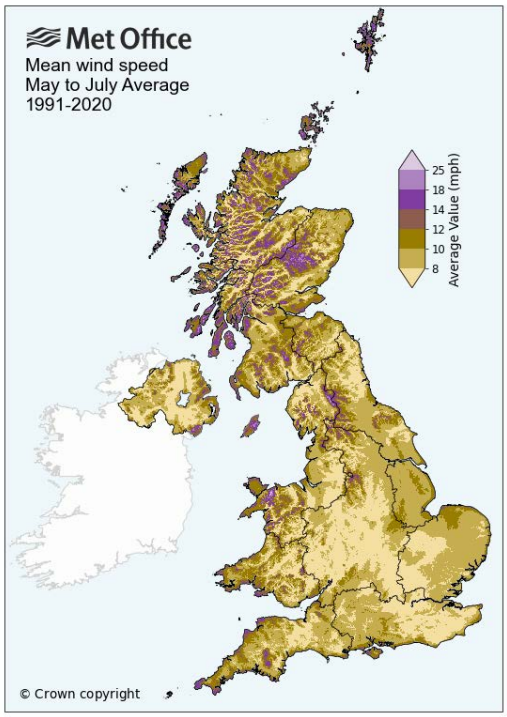
May - Jul 2023



These maps show how May - July precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown above in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

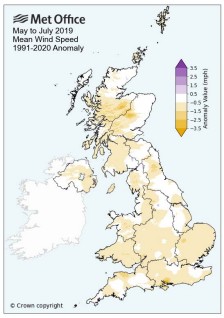
Long-term average wind speed (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average wind speed across the UK applicable to the 3-month Outlook period.

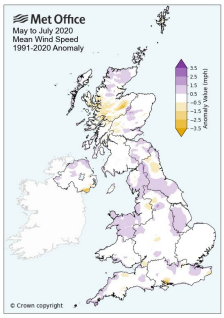


Average wind speed for May - July based on observations of past years.

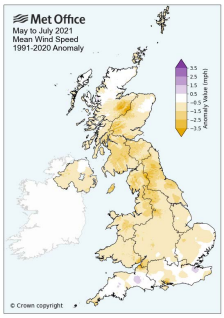
Last 5 years wind speed, difference from average (3-month)



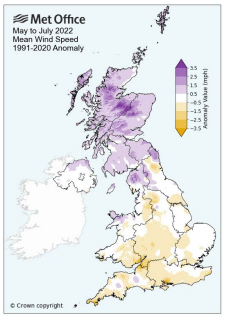
May - Jul 2019



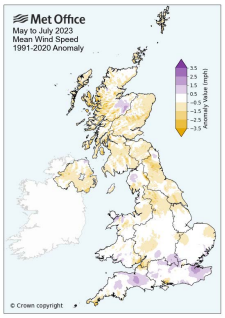
May - Jul 2020



May - Jul 2021



May - Jul 2022



May - Jul 2023

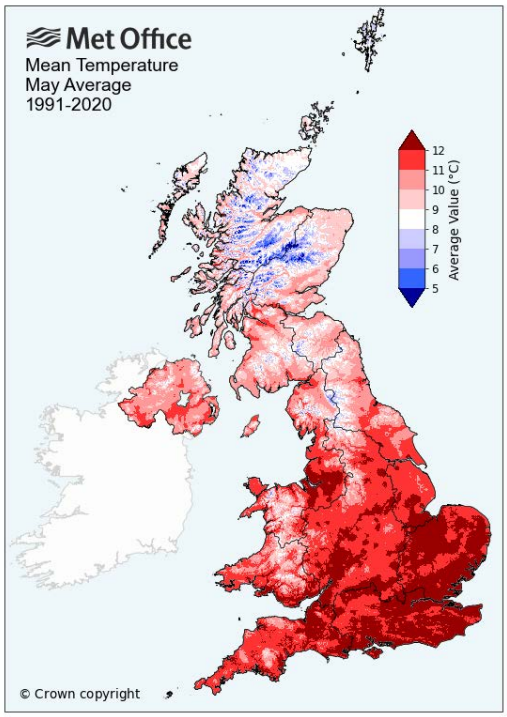
Anomaly (mph)

< -3.5	-3.5 to -2.5	-2.5 to -1.5	-1.5 to -0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.5	2.5 to 3.5	> 3.5

These maps show how May - July wind speed in the last five years differed from the long-term average wind speeds shown above in the upper panel. Yellow colours indicate calmer-than-average conditions while purple shades indicate windier-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

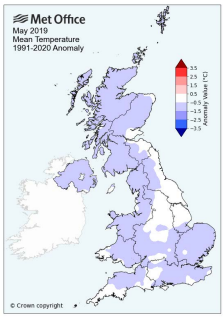
Long-term average temperatures (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average temperatures across the UK applicable to the 1-month Outlook period.

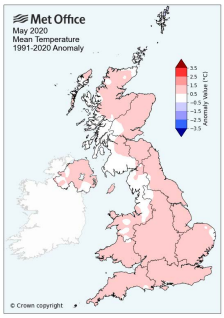


Average temperatures for May based on observations of past years.

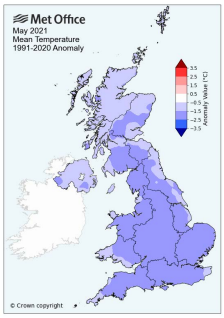
Last 5 years temperatures, difference from average (1-month)



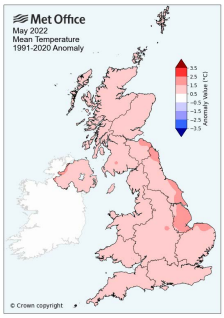
May 2019



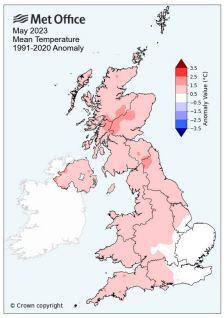
May 2020



May 2021



May 2022



May 2023

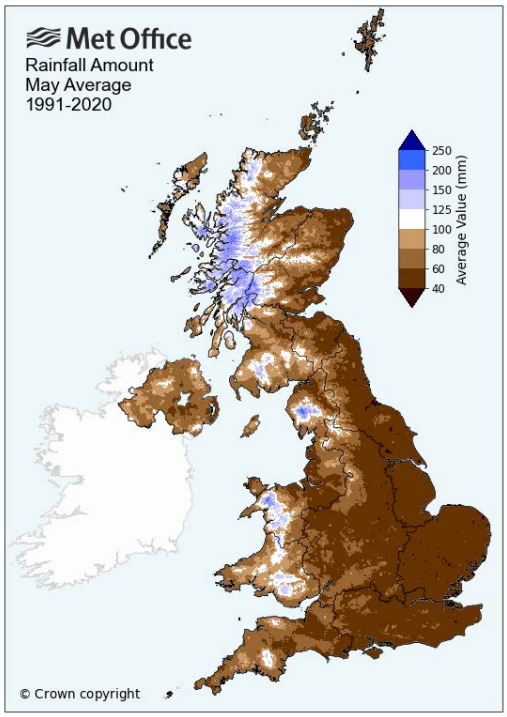
Anomaly (°C)

< -3.5	-3.5 to -2.5	-2.5 to -1.5	-1.5 to -0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.5	2.5 to 3.5	> 3.5

These maps show how May temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown above in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate warmer-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

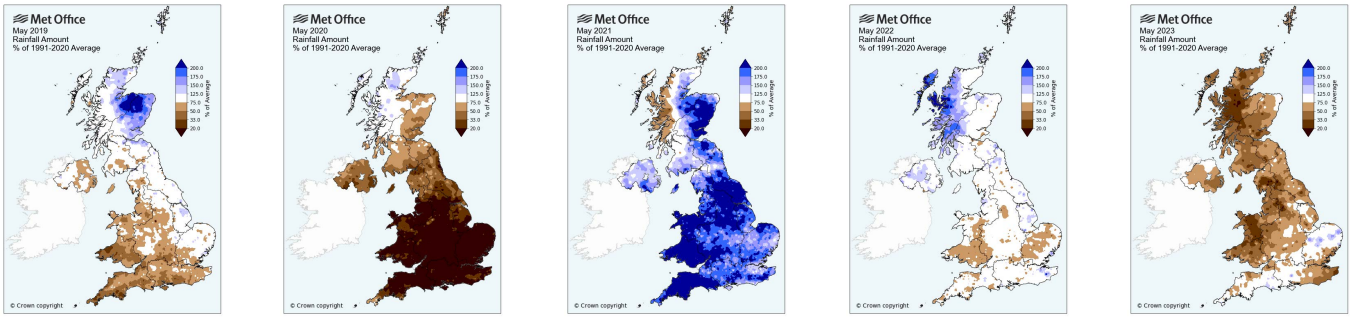
Long-term average precipitation (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average precipitation across the UK applicable to the 1-month Outlook period.



Average precipitation for May based on observations of past years.

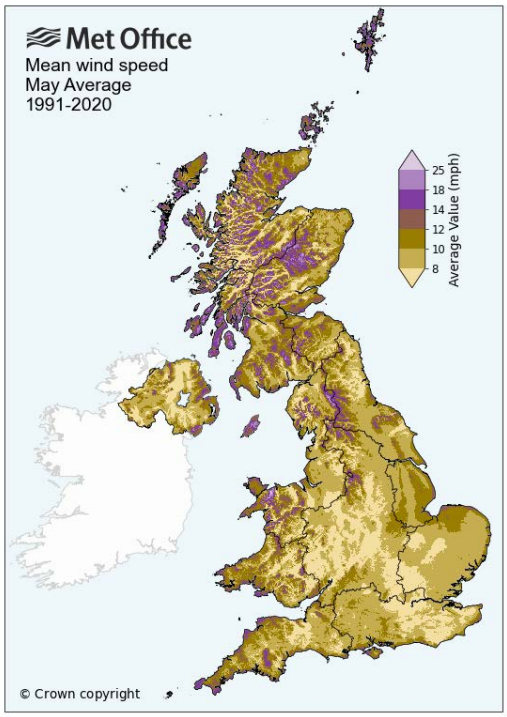
Last 5 years precipitation, difference from average (1-month)



These maps show how May precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown above in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

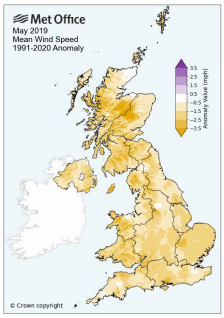
Long-term average wind speed (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average wind speed across the UK applicable to the 1-month Outlook period.

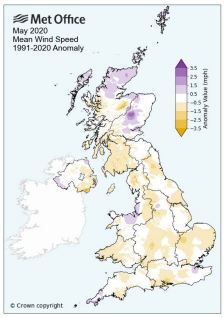


Average wind speed for May based on observations of past years.

Last 5 years wind speed, difference from average (1-month)



May 2019



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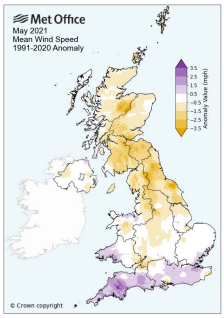

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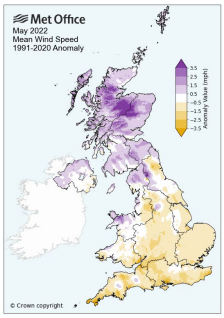
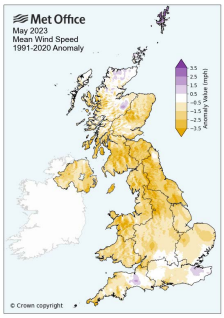


May 2022



May 2023

Anomaly (mph)

< -3.5	-3.5 to -2.5	-2.5 to -1.5	-1.5 to -0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.5	2.5 to 3.5	> 3.5

These maps show how May wind speed in the last five years differed from the long-term average wind speeds shown above in the upper panel. Yellow colours indicate calmer-than-average conditions while purple shades indicate windier-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

Q&As

Q. What is the point of the Outlook, who is it meant for?
A. This Outlook is produced for planners in government and business who make risk-based decisions. These users are aware of the complexities of this type of outlook and will include those factors in their decision-making process.

Q. How did you decide on the Outlook? What are the main factors affecting it?
A. It is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement. See the 'Outlook in Context' section of the Outlook for more details.

Q. Is the Outlook for the whole country?
A. The Outlook is for the average of conditions over the UK as a whole. Regional deviations from the UK-average can occur. For example, average UK precipitation can result from below-average rainfall for the northwest and above-average for the southeast.

Q. How confident are you in this Outlook?
A. The percentages in the 'Likelihood of Impact' sections of the Outlook give the level of confidence.

Q. Does this Outlook mean we're going to be seeing further heavy rainfall with associated impacts?
A. Although the chance of wet weather is only slightly increased compared to normal, given the wet weather so far this year, there remains a chance we could see some impacts, particularly as at this time of year, rainfall can be localised and heavy with an increased risk of thunderstorms. However, the Outlook cannot specify the severity, location, duration, or timings of specific weather events and therefore details of any potential impacts. Keep up to date with the latest National Severe Weather Warnings and forecast information for your area on our forecast pages and check the risk of flooding in your areas via the Environment Agency, SEPA, Natural Resources Wales and NI Direct websites.

Q. Does the increased chance of hotter than average conditions mean we could see heatwave conditions?
A. The increased chance of hot conditions could just as easily reflect a mix of hot and cool days, warm nights, or less extreme levels of warmth rather than heatwave conditions specifically. The Outlook does not guarantee prolonged hot weather. Heatwaves do not typically persist throughout a whole three-month period and therefore the Outlook does not imply continuous heatwave conditions.

Q. What impact will the expected La Nina have on summer weather in the UK?
A. With the waning of El Nino in the Pacific Ocean forecasts suggest we are likely to see a La Nina developing in the next few months. However, the influence of La Nina in the UK in the summer months is modest, it can easily be overshadowed by other factors which can have a bigger impact on summer weather via the direction of the prevailing winds.

About the Outlook

The Outlook presented here is for United Kingdom as a whole and is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement. It is updated monthly to reflect the latest information on global weather patterns and their effect on the UK. The Outlook is designed to be used in conjunction with shorter-range forecasts – detailed weather forecast information is available on the Met Office website.

In this product, temperature refers to the average of daytime maxima and night-time minima. Wind speed refers to the average wind speed at a height of 10 metres. All numerical values relate to averages (temperature, wind speed) or totals (precipitation – rain, sleet, snow and hail) over 1 or 3 months, which are further averaged over the UK land area as a whole. Normal likelihood and long-term averages are established using the period 1991-2020.

Find out more

- UK 3-month Outlook user guidance page:
  https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/user-guidance/user-guidance
- Explainers on climate drivers (such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation and North Atlantic Oscillation) that influence seasonal forecasts and the impacts they can have on UK weather:
  https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/seasonal-forecasts-and-climate-drivers-resources
- Contingency planners page:
  https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/index

Contact us

Website:
www.metoffice.gov.uk

Email:
enquiries@metoffice.gov.uk

Provide your feedback

We would like to hear your feedback on the UK 3-month Outlook to understand how it is being used. Please fill in the short form using this link or QR code to share your thoughts.